

TO THE CITIZENS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 107, CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK.

GENTLEMEN:—The Board of Education of your district has called an election for Saturday, the 16th day of May, 1903, from the hours of 1 to 7 p. m., at the School House in the district, to vote upon the following propositions:

FIRST: "For or against" the proposition authorizing the Board to acquire by condemnation or to purchase at a cost not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000), the following described real estate adjoining the present school site, to-wit: Lot eight (8) and the south one hundred and sixteen and one half (116½) feet of lot eleven (11), all in Block twenty (20) in the City of Highland Park.

SECOND: "For or against" the proposition authorizing the Board to build an addition on the present school building at a cost of sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000).

THIRD: "For or against" the proposition authorizing the Board to issue bonds of said school district to the amount of twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000), the proceeds to be used to purchase said real estate and building said addition.

The undersigned members of the Board deemed it advisable to issue this circular in order that you may understand the reasons of the Board for calling this election and asking you to vote upon these propositions, and that you may thoroughly understand the questions submitted to you.

When the present building was erected some ten years ago, it was believed that the building would provide ample school facilities for all of the pupils for years to come. Since that time, however, the attendance has greatly increased, and during the last two years the Board has had difficulty in providing room for the large number of pupils. There has been much crowding of school rooms, and the present year the Board has been obliged to a rent room in the High School Building in order to accommodate the eighth grade. The Board is thus confronted with the problem of providing additional school facilities for the immediate needs of the school, to say nothing of the future.

The system of ventilation that was put in the present building was undoubtedly, at the time of its installation, one of the best of its kind known, but it has been found impossible, partly on account of the increased attendance, to properly ventilate the building, and the Board has had constant complaints, both from the pupils and parents, on this account. During the past year the Board has had the present system examined by experts in ventilation and heating and has been advised that it will be impossible to make any changes in the present system that would be of any permanent benefit, and that the only way to insure proper ventilation would be by the fan system of forcing the air through the building, such as is used in the High School. Whether an addition is put on the present building or a new building erected to provide for the increased attendance of the scholars, the Board is a unit in agreeing that the ventilation of the present building must be improved, and that any building or addition erected in the future must be provided with proper ventilation. The undersigned believe that a system of ventilation could be put in the present building with the proposed addition much cheaper than two separate systems, one in the present building and one in a new building, could be installed, and, as a matter of course, the cost of operating one plant would be much less than two.

The lot upon which the present school building is located is not large enough to give the children such play grounds as seem desirable, and the result has been that the adjoining property has been used by the children for this purpose, a state of affairs which of course cannot always continue. Even if no addition is put upon the present building the undersigned believe that it is advisable to purchase additional ground in connection with the present building in order that the children may be accommodated in this respect, and in order that there may be a separate play ground for the girls and boys during intermissions. With an addition on the present building there can be no question as to the need of more ground. As is well known the price of real estate in Highland Park is constantly increasing. If any land is to be purchased in connection with the present site, it is certainly advisable, from a financial standpoint, to do this at once.

School District No. 107 includes practically all of the City of Highland Park north of Deerfield avenue and Ravine avenue, Ravine avenue being the street running east and west and immediately south

of the Northwestern Military Academy, and Deerfield avenue being a continuation of Ravine avenue on the west side of the track. It will be seen from an examination of a map that the present school site is quite near the geographical center of the district. Probably a location most convenient to the greatest number of pupils would be farther west and possibly across the tracks of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company, but the undersigned believe that there is considerable feeling among the residents of the west side against locating a building on that side of the track, and believe that any attempt on the part of the Board to locate a building there now would result in a feeling that would be extremely detrimental to the best interests of the school.

The undersigned members of the Board also feel that it is for the best interests of the school, at the present stage of growth of the school district, to have all the pupils so far as possible, under one roof. Such an arrangement simplifies the problem of gradation and supervision, and makes it possible for the pupils to receive more effective training in the special branches, such as music, drawing and manual training. There is no question about the economy of having all the pupils under one roof, both in the question of heating, ventilation, janitor service, etc., as well as the relative cost of instructing the pupils.

After a careful consideration of all the above questions, the undersigned decided that it was for the best interests of the school district to build a nine room addition upon the north end of the present building, and to purchase the land set forth in the above propositions. If this land is purchased, the school site will consist of four hundred and eighty (480) feet on Elm Place extending from Sheridan Road east to Linden Avenue, with three hundred and sixteen (316) on Sheridan Road and one hundred (100) feet on Linden Avenue. The entire south end of the block in question will belong to the district, and this will afford ample play grounds for all of the children. We are advised by competent architects that this addition to the building will in nowise detract from its symmetry, and that it can be built at an expense much less than that of a new building containing the same number of rooms. An entire new system of heating and ventilation would be put in the building insuring pure air for the pupils. We are in immediate need of four of the rooms in the proposed addition, and these are all we at the present time would propose to furnish. As the needs of the school for additional room increase, with this addition we would then be in a position to furnish the same at little expense to the district.

In order to purchase this land and build this addition the Board requires twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000) and it is necessary to raise the money by bonding the district for this sum. It will be seen that all of these propositions go together. In other words, it is not advisable to build the addition without purchasing additional land, and the land cannot be purchased and the addition built without issuing bonds.

We would, therefore, most respectfully request that all of the above propositions be carried or defeated together. We have no hesitancy in recommending for your favorable consideration each and all of the propositions, but, in any event, we hope all of the citizens will take enough interest in the question to cast their vote at the polls. The Board feels that the responsibility of these propositions rests with the voters and not with the Board, and that there should be a full vote of the district in order that this Board may carry out the wishes of the citizens of Highland Park.

Dated this 14th day of May, A. D. 1903.

J. E. ROUNSEVELLE,
EDWARD A. WARREN,
CARLETON MOSELEY,
BOWEN W. SCHUMACHER,
THERESA K. TILLMAN,
MRS. GEO. B. CUMMINGS.

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